

Application Serial No. 10/030,747
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-2717

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated February 24, 2005, the Examiner states that Claims 1-10 are pending, Claims 1-10 are rejected and Claims 11-26 are withdrawn. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

On July 22, 2005, the Examiner contacted the undersigned attorney regarding the status of the present application. At that time it was indicated that the Applicant intended to allow the application to go abandoned by non-response to the Office Action. The Examiner on August 11, 2005 issued a Notice of Abandonment, which was premature. Subsequently, the Applicant has decided to file a timely response.

On February 9, 2005, the Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) that has not yet been acknowledged by the Examiner. The Applicant requests that an initialed copy of form PTO-1449 be returned with the next office communication.

In the Office Action, Claims 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are objected to as being unclear as to their dependency to Claim 1. The Applicant has amended the preamble of the dependent claims from "a mail system" to "The mail system—".

In the Office Action, Claim 10 is rejected as Indefinite. The Applicant has canceled Claims 9 and 10, and incorporated the feature of Claim 2 into Claim 1.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,330,079 (Dugan). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dugan in view of US 2004/0077334 (Joyce). The Applicant considers that the amendment to Independent Claim 1 overcomes these rejections.

Amended Claim 1 includes the feature of a "means for maintaining the first communications link upon termination of the second communications link". Dugan at column 15, line 54 to column 16, line 10 indicates that system can establish a second communications link. However, Dugan is silent regarding what happens when the second communications link is terminated. Dugan does not teach providing a means for maintaining the first communications link upon termination of the second communications link. Thus, the rejections to each of the claims is considered overcome.

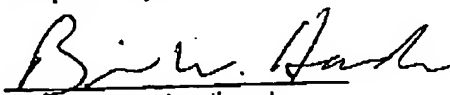
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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

August 24, 2005
Date


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